

and jumps upon joint-stools: and
 swears with a
 good grace ; and wears his boot very
 smooth, like
 unto the sign of the lea⁵; and breeds no
 bate with
 telling of discreet stories ⁶, and such
 other gambol

speaks of those who eat *candles ends*, as an act of
 love and gallan-
 lantry ; and Beaumont and Fletcher, in
 Monsieur Thomas:
 " — carouse her health in cans, and *candles*
ends."

In Rowley's Match at Midnight, 1633, a captain
 says, that his
 " corporal was lately choaked at Delf by
 swallowing *ajlap*
dragon."

Again, in Marston's Dutch Courtesan, 1605 : " —
 have I not
 been drunk to your health, swallowed *fiapdragons*,
 eat glasses,
 drank urine, stabbed arms, and done all the offices
 of protested
 gallantry for your sake ? "

Again, in The Christian turn'd Turk, 1612 : " —
 as familiarly
 as pikes do gudgeons, and with as much facility as
 Dutchmen
 swallow *fiapdragons*." STEEVENS.

A *fiap-dragon* is some small combustible body,
 fired at one
 end, and put afloat in a glass of liquor. It is an act of
 a toper's
 dexterity to toss off the glass in such a manner as to
 prevent the

fiap-dragon from doing mischief. JOHNSON.

4 — and rides the wild MARE with the boys ;] ^{c*}
 Riding the
 wild mare," is another name for the childish sport of
 see-saw, or
 what the French call *bascule* and *balançoire*.
 DODGE.

5 — wears his boot very smooth, like unto the sign
 of the lea¹.

The learned editor of Chaucer's Canterbury Tales,
 1775, observes,
 that such is part of the description of a smart
 abbot, by an ano-
 nymous writer of the thirteenth century: *Ocreas*
habebat in
cruribus, quasi innatae essent, sine plica
porrectas. MS. Bod.

James, n. 6, p. 121. STEEVENS.

6 — DISCREET stories ;] We should read —
 indiscreet.

WARBURTON.

I suppose by *discreet stories* is meant what
 suspicious masters
 and mistresses of families would call *prudential*
information ;
 i. e. what ought to be known, and yet is disgraceful
 to the teller :
 Among the virtues of John Rugby, in The Merry
 Wives of
 Windsor, Mrs. Quickly adds, that " he is *no tell-tale*,
 no breed-
 bate." STEEVENS.

Dr. Warburton would most unnecessarily read
indiscreet. Mr.
 Steevens supposes that " by *discreet stories* is

meant what suspicious masters and mistresses of families would call *prudent* information ; i. e. what ought to be known, and yet is disgraceful to the teller." But Poins of whom Falstaff is speaking, had no masters or mistresses; and if it be recollected with what sort of